



News Release from Congressman
ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SIMMONS BUCKS GOP LEADERSHIP; PUSHES FOR JULY VOTE ON MINIMUM WAGE

Lawmaker Joins 25 Moderate GOPers In Calling For Vote Before August Recess

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today joined 25 moderate Republicans in calling for congressional action on legislation increasing the federal minimum wage.

In a letter to House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH), the Republican moderates wrote, “As you know, it has been nearly ten years since the last increase in the minimum wage. At the current rate, a minimum wage employee who works 40-hours a week earns \$10,700 per year. For a single parent with two children that amount is thousands of dollars below the federal poverty line. Nobody working full time should have to live in poverty. We believe it is time for Congress to take responsible action to raise the minimum wage and ensure our hard working constituents can provide for their families.”

For his part, Simmons is a cosponsor of two bills that would raise the federal minimum wage to more than \$7.15 and \$7.50 per hour respectively. “Supporting a federal minimum wage increase levels the playing field for business owners in Connecticut, while increasing wages for hardworking Americans across the country,” Simmons said. “It’s time to set aside the partisan politics surrounding this issue and act on behalf of America’s working families.”

The text of the letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. Leader,

We write today to urge you to schedule a vote on legislation which would provide a substantial increase in the minimum wage before the House recesses for the August District Work Period.

As you know, it has been nearly ten years since the last increase in the minimum wage. At the current rate, a minimum wage employee who works 40-hours a week earns \$10,700 per year. For a single parent with two children that amount is thousands of dollars below the federal poverty line. Nobody working full time should have to live in poverty. We believe it is time for Congress to take responsible action to raise the minimum wage and ensure our hard working constituents can provide for their families.

Again, we urge you to schedule a vote on legislation to provide a meaningful increase in the minimum wage before the end of July 2006. We look forward to working with you to ensure a majority of our colleagues in the House will support such legislation and we thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rob Simmons (CT), Frank LoBiondo (NJ), Steven LaTourette (OH), Ray LaHood (IL), Sherwood Boehlert (NY) Phil English (PA), Jerry Weller (IL), Christopher Shays (CT), John Sweeney (NY), Nancy Johnson (CT), John McHugh (NY), James Walsh (NY), Timothy Johnson (IL), Christopher Smith (NJ), Jim Saxton (NJ), Randy Kuhl (NY), Michael Castle (DE), Curt Weldon (PA), Mike Ferguson (NJ), Jim Leach (IA), Joe Schwarz (MI), Peter King (NY), Michael Fitzpatrick (PA), Fred Upton (MI), Sue Kelly (NY), Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

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